

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, October 16, 2012**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Kathy Zolad called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Board: Kathy Zolad, Bill DeBlasio, Richard Khentigan, Jim Marocchini, Robert Fresen, Eileen Francolino, Jen Win-Johnson

Board Members Absent: Don Woods, Mary Udice, Ed Marchion, Jeff Perillo

Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF September 18, 2012**

**James Marocchini made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.**

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you note from Theresa Reynolds for help with set up at the Water Fall Festival.  
Letter from Anthony Piskura of Northeast Midways regarding the proposal for the Extravaganza to extend the Carnival to Sunday and offer a wristband with a \$5.00 coupon available a few weeks prior to the event. Bruce does not think extending the carnival to Sunday will be to the Parks and Rec. Departments advantage. Board members are looking for a 3-day wristband, sold in advance with a possible discount, no coupons. The cost approximately \$40.00 for the 3-day wristband for the carnival. Bruce will negotiate with Anthony Piskura.

**Monthly Report FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Bruce has met with the other recreation supervisors to come up with a strategy for coordinating the Extravaganza. He has hired Michelle from the Aquatics department; she has been with the recreation department for several years on a part time basis. Michelle has been hired as part time coordinator of the Extravaganza all of Stephanie's event documents are with Michelle. The duties will be split between Bruce, Michelle and other rec. supervisors, keeping some of the regular staff in place so not always having to break in a new person to run a particular event. Bruce considered contracting the position out on a commission basis as it has been done in other towns but Extravaganza might not be generating enough revenue to contract the position, the event would have to be up-scaled, this could be a possibility in the future.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Rich Khentigan asked if registration for basketball program would continue to be at Dicks Sporting Goods like it has been done in the past. Bruce said it would continue at Dicks Sporting Goods Stores instead of coming to the Town Hall for registrations, it has been working out very well.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Midway contract: covered in the letter from Anthony Piskura. Will have to be negotiated.

Lemire Lighting: The field is getting a lot of use by the groups in town, youth groups, and the interscholastic program at the high school it is a full schedule. Synthetic field is saving other fields in town from being ruined during the spring and fall months. It is not booked every weekend but with more publicity it could be but you would also have to bring in more staff, a recreation supervisor and a parks person to be around and available. Bruce mentioned that Karen was able to accommodate an out of town group a couple of weeks ago at the synthetic field because the north field at the high school was too wet. Karen was able to make it happen the group was very appreciative. Fall will be a busy time of year to rent out the synthetic field with midget football and soccer as long as the weather holds. The field is fairly new, still tracking to see what rentals bring in for income.

Building Committee Update: Bruce Till attended the Building Committee meeting. The Building Committee passed onto the town council to hire Olson. RFP was done for Olson, broke down each step of the process and costs. Bottom line for Olson to do the job is approximately \$72,000 – \$74,000. Still needs to be approved at town council. Bruce thinks the committee should retain Olson to do this work. The town manager gave a report regarding the locations, and list pros/cons. Committee has not chosen a location and some still have not decided if the stand alone building is a good idea. Bruce supports stand alone building with room for expansion, an outdoor pool can be near new center and old pool can be filled and become field space. Wish list was made so the new center would be accommodating to residents for the next 15 plus years. Olson has mentioned to the committee that it will be difficult to renovate to this building when a big part of it would have to be demolished and rebuilt, the existing steel will not support another story to be added on to the building. Bruce Till spoke with the Chairman of the Building Committee and Bruce would like to have two member of Parks and Recreation Commission on the Building Committee Board. The next Town Council meeting will discuss whether or not the two Parks and Recreation Board members that will be on the Building Committee will be liaisons or have voting privileges.

Swim Team: In the past the Newington Swim Club parents and volunteers have taken care of set up and break down of their swim events and no custodian was needed for the swim club. The concerns of NSC, a non-profit organization, are the fees they will incur for the custodian that the club will be charged for each event by the Board of Education. Also the club questioned why a custodian is assigned to each sporting group at the High School when more than one event is taking place at the same time. Parks and Recreation Department will not be able to absorb the cost of the custodian for the swim club; it is not in the budget to do so at this time. It is up to the Board of Education to submit a bill to the Parks and Recreation department for the custodian used for the event. Bruce and other board members have compared the costs which are tied into registrations for other sports groups to cover costs of fields etc., and maybe the swim club should include in their registration/event fees to cover costs in the future. Bruce does not want the participant's fee to be too high that it will affect some people not being able to participate. Jen Win-Johnson mentioned that the custodians decide how many are needed to cover events depending upon how big the event is, but it is contractual issue with the Board of Ed. Bruce

mentioned that the Board members could decide to try and include these costs of the custodian fees in the budget in the future.

Jen Win-Johnson mention the soccer field and concession stand at the High School is not completely wheel chair accessible. Bruce commented the project is not finished but it will be ADA accessible when the project is completed.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Bill DeBlasio to adjourn. Jim Marocchini seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm with a 7-0 vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Jay